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19 May 1947

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief, Survey Division, Requirements Branch, OGD

SUBJECT: Project No. 18A - Abstracting Foreign Documents -
Conference with Assistant Librarian,
Library of Congress

1. OIG has been authorized to undertake for intelligence purposes the centralized abstracting of current foreign periodicals. In order to implement this project, subject conference was arranged.

2. [redacted], Mr. J. J. Baghall (OO/Doc Br) and [redacted] met with Mr. Vernon Clapp (Assistant Librarian) and Mr. David C. Mearns (Director of the Reference Department), both of the Library of Congress, in Mr. Clapp's office on 15 May 1947.

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3. Early in the discussion, Mr. Clapp stressed the fact that the periodicals furnished by the Library of Congress from which the abstracts will be made are unclassified. He stated that the Library of Congress desired the abstracts be made available to all agencies within the Federal government having any interest in them. It was brought out that OIG has no authority to act as a service agency in abstracting for the benefit of non-participating agencies information of strictly departmental interest which they may desire and that these abstracts as prepared by OIG in most instances will bear some classification. Mr. Clapp accepted this as clarifying the matter.

4. Mr. Clapp stated, with Mr. Mearns concurring, that the following arrangement would be entirely satisfactory with the Library of Congress:

a. The Library of Congress, Serial Record Division, will expect an OO/Doc Br representative to view the incoming foreign periodicals each week. This representative will select and prepare "charge receipts" for those periodicals to be abstracted.

b. Each Monday morning a OIG courier will receive from the Loan Division, Library of Congress, those periodicals previously selected for OO/Doc Br use. The courier to return these periodicals to the Loan Division, Library of Congress, at 0900 the following Thursday morning.

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5. Mr. Clapp also stated these periodicals would be available on a loan basis for the future use of CIG through normal channels.
6. Upon inquiry, Mr. Bagnall assured Mr. Clapp the abstracts would reveal the site or physical location of the periodical abstracted, thus facilitating future collection procedure in locating the documents and avoiding unnecessary searches by agencies not having control of them.
7. Copies of all abstracts made by CIG under this arrangement will be furnished to the Library of Congress.
8. Mr. Clapp assured the representatives of CIG that these arrangements would meet with the approval of the Librarian, Mr. L. H. Evans.
9. It was mutually understood that should any feature of the procedure prove to be unfeasible, it will be subject to change.
10. A letter to the Library of Congress for the purpose of implementing the procedure outlined above is being prepared for Capt. Olsen's signature.



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